

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1031

By Berke

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Mary Tanner upon her selection as a 2008 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2008, the American Lung Association of Tennessee, in conjunction with Belk, will present the 23rd Annual Women of Distinction Awards, designating Dr. Mary Tanner as a 2008 Woman of Distinction; and

WHEREAS, a long-standing Chattanooga tradition, the Woman of Distinction Awards are granted to women who have distinguished themselves through their professional career accomplishments and their dedication to the community through their numerous and valuable civic and philanthropic endeavors; the honorees are selected from community nominations; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded scholar and educator, Dr. Tanner has worked assiduously and with uncommon devotion and zeal to improve the quality of life of the fine citizens of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Mary Tanner has spent her thirty-five year academic career at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC), rising from an instructor in the Department of Human Ecology to her present position as Guerry Professor and Dean of the College of Health, Education, and Professional Studies; and

WHEREAS, during her illustrious tenure as Dean, sixteen new initiatives benefiting students have been launched at UTC, including a doctorate in learning and leadership, a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, and the first online learning opportunity for the university; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of the greater Chattanooga community, Dr. Tanner has served on more than forty boards; she currently serves on the national board of Kid Fitness, is a trustee of the Tennessee Aquarium, and sits on the boards of eight local nonprofits, among them Allied Arts, United Way, and the Community Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tanner is a past Chairman of the Academic Department Heads Council at UTC, a graduate of Leadership Chattanooga, and a volunteer with Friends of the Festival; and

WHEREAS, her many professional and civic accomplishments aside, Mary Tanner is most grateful to share both love and companionship with her husband, Dr. Homer Kemp, who is head of the Department of English at Tennessee Technological University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tanner epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; she takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned this State the nickname of "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Mary Tanner, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Dr. Mary Tanner on being named as a 2008 Woman of Distinction by the American Lung Association of Tennessee, recognizing her outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit and extending to her our best wishes for every continued success and much happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.